

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Amendment in response to a final Office Action mailed on March 31, 2004.

Claims 32, 33, 36, 38, and 39 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-31, 34, 35, and 37 have been canceled previously. Claim 36 has been amended to place the application in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the foregoing amendment. In making this Amendment, Applicant has added no new matter. Support for the amendment above can be found in the specification and claims as filed.

Applicant makes this Amendment without prejudice or disclaimer. Moreover, Applicant does not make this Amendment to overcome a rejection related to patentability, but rather to expedite prosecution of this application. The Office Action asserts that “manipulandum” is unsupported by the disclosure. A claim term that has a well-recognized meaning to those of ordinary skill in the art is not indefinite even though the term is not defined in the patent. Bancorp Services LLC v. Hartford Life Ins. Co., 359 F.3d 1367, 69 USPQ2d 1996 (Fed. Cir. 2004). Here the term “manipulandum” has a well-recognized meaning to those of ordinary skill in the art, and thus, the rejection is improper.

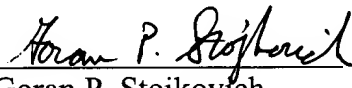
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable.

Applicant respectfully solicits the issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any matter related to the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 7, 2004


Goran P. Stojkovich
Registration No. 45,841

Kilpatrick Stockton LLP
1001 West Fourth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27106-2400
Telephone: (336) 607-7300
Facsimile: (336) 607-7500